

NYC Anarchist Black Cross



U.S. Political Prisoner and Prisoner of War Listing
6th Edition, December 2011

ANARCHIST MOVEMENT PRISONERS

Joseph Roger Clement FPS-666866F

Pittsburgh Institution
Highway 15, Number 3766
Post Office Box 4510
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 5E5
Canada



Clement admitted to being the first of two men to enter the RBC bank branch in the Glebe neighborhood of Ottawa late on May 18, 2010. According to video evidence, the first man doused the bank with a liquid believed to be gasoline and the second man threw a Molotov cocktail, starting the blaze. Clement has refused to provide any testimony about his accomplices.

Bill Dunne #10916-086

USP Pollock
Post Office Box 2099
Pollock, Louisiana 71467

Anti-authoritarian sentenced to 90 years for the attempted liberation of an anarchist prisoner in 1979. The liberation was successful, but Bill was arrested after an exchange of fire with police as they were fleeing the scene.



David Japenga #153760

950 Second Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

David Japenga was arrested August 24th, 2011 at a demonstration held in response to an incident the day before in which two women were harassed for their sexual orientation and threatened with a gun. He currently faces Obstruction to Traffic and Failure to Disperse. If convicted, he faces parole revocation stemming from acts of property destruction during the 2009 G20 summit in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For more information, e-mail abcpittsburgh@riseup.net

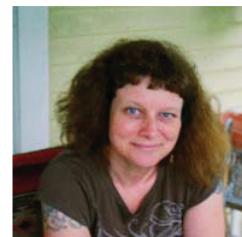


Marie Mason #04672-061

FMC Carswell
Post Office Box 27137
Fort Worth, Texas 76127

Marie Mason is a 46 year old mother of two. She is an avid community gardener, a musician, a writer, an Earth First! Organizer, an IWW member, and a volunteer for a free herbal healthcare collective. She also was an extended care assistant at a small Cincinnati school when she was arrested on March 10, 2008 by federal agents. She was convicted of involvement with a December, 1999 arson at a Michigan State University genetics laboratory at Agriculture Hall and a January, 2000 arson of logging equipment in Mesick, Michigan. Both arsons were claimed by the Earth Liberation Front.

More info: www.freemarie.org



2010 Toronto G20 Main Conspiracy Group

Twenty-one folks arrested and charged with counseling to obstruct police, counseling mischief over \$5,000, and a variety of conspiracy charges. Of these, only seven were convicted, facing sentences of between 6 and 24 months. The state has labeled these folks the "Main Conspiracy Group," yet were not able to make a single conspiracy conviction.

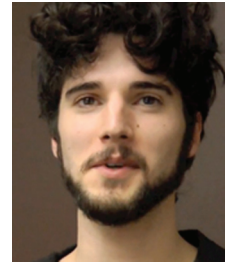
Peter Hopperton

Central North Correctional Centre
1501 Fuller Avenue
Penetanguishene, Ontario
L9M 2H4
Canada



Erik Lankin

Toronto West Detention Centre
111 Disco Road
Post Office Box 4950
Rexdale Ontario
M9W5L6
Canada



Adam Lewis

Toronto West Detention Centre
111 Disco Road
Post Office Box 4950
Rexdale Ontario
M9W5L6
Canada



INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE

Oso Blanco (Byron Chubbuck) #07909-051

USP Lewisburg
Post Office Box 1000
Lewisburg, Pennsylvania 17837

Indigenous rights activist serving 80 years for bank robbery, aggravated assault on the FBI, escape and firearms charges. A confidential informant reported that Oso was robbing banks in order to acquire funds to support the Zapatista rebellion in Chiapas, Mexico throughout 1998-99.

More information at <http://osoblanco.org>



Leonard Peltier #89637-132

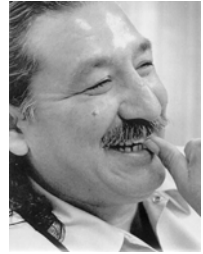
USP Coleman I

Post Office Box 1033

Coleman, Florida 33521

American Indian Movement (AIM) activist, serving two life sentences, having been framed for the murder of two FBI agents.

More info: www.whoisleonardpeltier.info

**Luis V. Rodriguez #C33000**

Kern Valley State Prison

Post Office Box 5103

Delano, California 93216

Apache/Chicano activist framed for the murder of two cops.

More info: www.luisvrodriquez.com

**BLACK/NEW AFRIKAN LIBERATION****Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM8335**

SCI Mahanoy

301 Morea Road

Frackville, Pennsylvania 17932

Mumia is an award winning journalist and was one of the founders of the Black

Panther Party chapter in Philadelphia, PA. He has struggled for justice and

human rights for people of color since he was at least 14 years old ~ the age

when he joined the Party. In December of 1982, Mumia, who moonlighted by driving a taxi, happened upon police who were beating his brother. During the melee, a police officer was shot and killed. Despite the fact that many people saw someone else shoot and then runaway from the scene, Mumia, in what could only be called a kangaroo court, was convicted and sentenced to death.

During the summer of 1995, a death warrant was signed by Governor Tom Ridge, which sparked one of the most effective organizing efforts in defense of a political prisoner ever. Since that time, Mumia has had his death sentence overturned, but is still expected to serve the rest of his life in prison. More info: www.freemumia.com

**Sundiata Acoli (Clark Squire) #39794-066**

FCI Cumberland

Post Office Box 1000

Cumberland, Maryland 21501

A New York Black Panther, he endured two years of prison awaiting trial for the Panther 21 Conspiracy Case. He and his comrades were eventually acquitted on all the bogus charges.



The case was historic and a classic example of police and government attempting to neutralize organizations by incarcerating their leadership. As a result of this political attack and because of the immense pressure and surveillance from the FBI and local police Sundiata, like many other Panther leaders went "underground". On May 2, 1973, Sundiata Acoli, Assata Shakur and Zayd Shakur were ambushed and attacked by state troopers on the New Jersey Turnpike. Assata was wounded and Zayd was killed. During the gun battle a state trooper was shot and killed in self-defense. Sundiata was tried in an environment of mass hysteria and convicted, although there was no credible evidence that he killed the trooper or had been involved in the shooting. He was sentenced to thirty years. More info: www.sundiataacoli.org

Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin #99974-555

USP Florence ADMAX
Post Office Box 8500
Florence, Colorado 81226

Also known as H. Rap Brown, came to prominence in the 1960s as chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Justice Minister of the Black Panther Party. He is perhaps most famous for his proclamation during that period that "violence is as American as cherry pie", as well as once stating that "If America don't come around, we're gonna burn it down." He is currently serving a life sentence for homicide.

**Zolo Azania #4969**

Indiana State Prison
1 Park Row
Michigan City, Indiana 46360

Zolo Azania is a former Black Panther convicted of a 1981 bank robbery that left a Gary, Indiana cop dead. He was arrested miles away from the incident as he was walking, unarmed, down the street. The prosecution intimidated witnesses, suppressed favorable evidence, presented false eyewitness and expert testimony, and denied him the right to speak or present motions in his own behalf.



The two other men charged and convicted with Zolo received sentences of 60 years. But Zolo's political history and beliefs were used to paint an unfair and inaccurate picture of him and he received the death penalty for a crime he was not involved in. More info: www.zoloazania.org

Herman Bell #79-C-0262

Great Meadow Correctional Facility
11739 State Route 22
Post Office Box 51
Comstock, New York 12821-0051

Herman Bell moved to Brooklyn as a boy. He was a talented football player and won a scholarship to UC-Oakland. While in Oakland, Herman joined the Black Panther Party and became active around human rights issues in the Black community. In 1971, due to relentless FBI attacks on the Party, Herman went underground.



While underground, Herman joined the Black Liberation Army, and in September of 1973 he was captured and extradited to New York on charges of having killed 2 New York City police officers--a case for which other Panthers were serving time. No witnesses were able to put Herman at the scene of the crime. The first trial ended in a hung jury, but Herman was convicted at his second trial and sentenced to 25 years to life.

In 1990, he earned his B.S. degree from the SUNY-New Paltz. Herman remains a prison activist, having coached sports teams inside the prison system, as well as mentoring younger prisoners. More info: www.freethesf8.org

Joe-Joe Bowen (Joseph Bowen) #AM4272

SCI Coal Township

1 Kelley Drive

Coal Township, Pennsylvania 17866-1020

Joseph “Joe-Joe” Bowen is one of the many all-but-forgotten frontline soldiers in the liberation struggle. A native of Philadelphia, Joe-Joe was a young member of the “30th and Norris” street gang before his incarceration politicized him. Released in 1971, his outside activism was cut short a week following his release when Joe-Joe was confronted by an officer of the notoriously brutal Philadelphia police department. The police officer was killed in the confrontation, and Bowen fled. After his capture and incarceration, Bowen became a Black Liberation Army combatant, defiant to authorities at every turn. In 1973, Joe-Joe and Philadelphia Five prisoner Fred “Muhammad” Burton assassinated Holmesburg prison’s warden and deputy warden as well as wounded the guard commander in retaliation for intense repression against Muslim prisoners in the facility.



In 1981, Bowen led a six-day standoff with authorities when he and six other captives took 39 hostages at Graterford Prison as a freedom attempt and protest of the prison conditions. Much of his time in prison has been spent in and out of control units, solitary confinement, and other means of isolating Joe-Joe from the general prison population. These include three trips to Marion Penitentiary, where he met Sundiata Acoli and other BLA members. He is legendary to many prisoners as a revolutionary. “I used to teach the brothers how to turn their rage into energy and understand their situations,” Bowen told the Philadelphia Inquirer in 1981. “I don’t threaten anybody. I don’t talk to pigs. I don’t drink anything I can’t see through and I don’t eat anything off a tray. When the time comes, I’ll be ready.”

Veronza Bowers, Jr. 35316-136

USP Atlanta

Post Office Box 150160

Atlanta, Georgia 30315

Veronza was a member of the Black Panther Party and was convicted in the murder of a U.S. Park Ranger on the word of two government informants, both of whom received reduced sentences for other crimes by the Federal prosecutor's office. There were no eye-witnesses and no evidence independent of these informants to link him to the crime. At his trial, Veronza offered alibi testimony which was not credited by the jury. Nor was testimony of two relatives of the informants who insisted that they were lying. The informants had all charges against them in this case dropped and one was given \$10,000 by the government according to the prosecutor's post-sentencing report. Veronza has consistently proclaimed his innocence of the crime he never committed, even at the expense of having his appeals for parole denied for which an admission of guilt and contrition is virtually required. He insists on maintaining his innocence. More info: www.veronza.org



Muhammad Burton (Fred Burton) AF3896

SCI Somerset

1590 Walters Mill Road

Somerset, Pennsylvania 15510-0001

Frederick Burton is an innocent man who has diligently attempted to prove his innocence to the courts for the past 37 years. Prior to his incarceration, Fred worked for a phone company, was a well respected member of his community and his wife was preparing to have twins, his third and fourth child. In 1970, Fred was accused and then convicted of participating in the planning of the murder of Philadelphia police officers. While the plan was allegedly to blow up a police station, what occurred was that a police officer was shot and killed allegedly by members of a radical group called "the Revolutionaries."

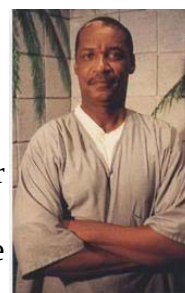
**Marshall Eddie Conway #116469**

Jessup Correctional Institution

Post Office Box 534

Jessup, Maryland 20794

In 1970, Marshall Eddie Conway was Minister of Defense of the Baltimore chapter of the Black Panther Party. He was also employed by the United States Postal Service. Unbeknownst to Conway, some of the founding members of the Baltimore chapter were undercover officers with the Baltimore Police Department, who reported daily on his activities in the chapter. At the same time, the Federal Bureau of Investigation began its own investigation of Conway, recording his whereabouts, contacting his employers at the Post Office and maintaining "liaison" with the Baltimore Police Department.



On April 23, 1970, a Baltimore Police officer was shot and killed. Later that night, another officer named Nolan was fired upon by an unapprehended Black male. Two men arrested at the scene of the first shooting were allegedly associates of members of the Baltimore BPP chapter. Because of this, the police attributed both incidents to the BPP. Not surprisingly, Nolan then claimed that a picture of Conway, a well-known BPP member, resembled the unapprehended shooter. The next day, Conway was arrested while working at the Post office. He was charged with both the homicide and the attempted homicide of Nolan.

More info: www.freeeddieconway.org

Chip Fitzgerald (Romaine Fitzgerald) #B-27527

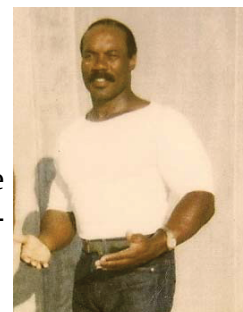
Kern Valley State Prison

Post Office Box 5104

Delano, California 93216

Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald, born and raised in Compton, California, joined the Southern California Chapter of the Black Panther Party in early 1969 as a teenager who had just been released from the California Youth Authority. In September of that year, as a dedicated member of the Party, Chip was arrested in connection with a police shoot-out and tried for assault on police and related charges, including the murder of a security guard. He was sentenced to death.

More info: www.freechip.org



Robert Seth Hayes #74-A-2280

Sullivan Correctional Facility

Post Office Box 116

Fallsburg, New York 12733-0116

After the assassination of Martin Luther King and the social upheaval which followed it, Robert Seth Hayes joined the Black Panther Party, working in the Party's free medical clinics and free breakfast programs. Like many other activists, Seth was forced underground by FBI and police repression of the Panther movement. Once underground, Seth joined the Black Liberation Army.



In 1973, following a shootout with police, Seth was arrested and convicted of the murder of a New York City police officer, and, while maintaining his innocence to this day, sentenced to 25 years to life in prison. Imprisoned for nearly forty years, Seth has long since served his sentence.

Seth first came up for parole in 1998, but prison officials have refused to release him, focusing on his involvement with the Black Panther Party and his knowledge as to the whereabouts of Assata Shakur and not his conduct while imprisoned.

While in prison, Seth has worked as a librarian, pre release advisor, and AIDS councilor, mentoring younger prisoners and continuing to struggle for his people.

More info: www.sethhayes.org

Sekou Kambui (William Turk) #113058

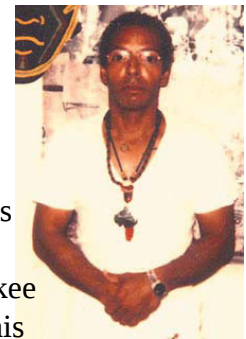
Staton Correctional Facility (B1-21)

Post Office Box 56

Elmore, Alabama 36025-0056

Sekou Cinque T.M. Kambui is a New Afrikan political prisoner currently serving two consecutive life sentences for crimes he did not commit. Sekou has already spent twenty years of his life behind bars on trumped up charges of murdering two white men in Alabama in 1975. Sekou is of Afrikan and Cherokee heritage, born on September 6, 1948 in Gadsden, Alabama. He was raised by his mother, grandparents and aunt in Detroit, Harlem, New York, and Birmingham, Alabama, respectively. Throughout the 1960's, Sekou participated in the Civil Rights movement, organizing youth for participating in demonstrations and marches across Alabama and providing security for meetings of the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC), Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Sekou is a paralegal professional and has been an active jailhouse lawyer and prisoner's rights activist for more than 20 years. Sekou became affiliated with the Black Panther Party in 1967 in Chicago and New York. While in Detroit, he became a member of the Republic of New Afrika, before returning to Birmingham. Back in Alabama, Sekou coordinated community organization activity with the Alabama Black Liberation Front, the Inmates for Action (IFA) Defense Committee and the Afro-American People's Party in the mid 1970's. Sekou was also a soldier in the Black Liberation Army (BLA) during these years before his capture. On January 2, 1975, Sekou was captured in north Birmingham for allegedly running a yield sign and/or speeding. During this stop, a 9mm pistol was found in the car lying between the front seats. Subsequent investigation by police on the scene discovered that the pistol was listed as stolen during a Tuscaloosa, Alabama murder.

More info: www.myspace.com/freeseekou



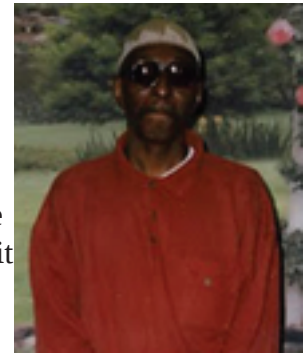
Maliki Shakur Latine # 81-A-4469

Clinton Correctional Facility

Post Office Box 2000

Dannemora, New York 12929

In his early years, Maliki Shakur Latine joined the Nation of Islam and began confronting society's oppressive forces. By 1969, Maliki joined the Black Panther Party. The discipline was not as rigid as in the Nation, but it contained the basic elements of discipline Maliki sees as essential to any effective revolutionary organization. Maliki began taking political education classes and transforming the theoretical ideals of the Panthers into daily practice.



Like many Panthers targeted by the U.S. government, Maliki found himself behind prison bars.

Upon his release, Maliki found that government repression forced many Panthers underground. Maliki followed suit and spent eight years as a Black Liberation Army soldier.

On July 3rd, 1979, NYPD pulled over a car they suspected stolen. Approaching the car, guns drawn, the cops opened fire. All four occupants escaped, though one of them, and one cop, were injured. Prosecutors claimed fingerprint evidence against Maliki and a co-defendant, but no eye witnesses could place him at the scene. Following a clear pattern in cases regarding Panthers, Maliki was found guilty, sentenced to 25 years to life in prison. He has consistently been denied parole, primarily due to his past political affiliations.

More info: abcf.net/prisoners/latine.htm

Ruchell Magee #A92051

California State Prison, Corcoran C8-103L

Post Office Box 5246

Corcoran, California 93212

Ruchell Cinque Magee is the longest held political prisoner in the U.S., having been locked up since 1963. Politicized in prison, he later participated in the Marin County Courthouse Rebellion, the attempted liberation of political prisoner Johnathan Jackson. He has worked tirelessly as a jail-house lawyer, working on his own case and helping many other prisoners win their freedom.

**Abdul Majid (s/n Anthony Laborde) #83-A-0483**

Elmira Correctional Facility

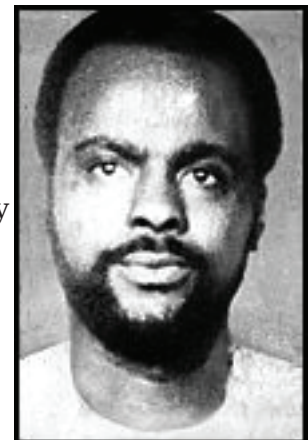
Post Office Box 500

1879 Davis Street

Elmira, New York 14902-050

In 1968, Abdul Majid joined the Black Panther Party, having been previously active with the Grass Roots Advisory Council. Abdul was involved in many of the community-based projects of the BPP including the free health clinic and free breakfast for children program.

After the Party was destroyed by the U.S. government, Abdul continued his political work as a paralegal with Bronx Legal Services.



On April 16th, 1981 a van was pulled over by NYPD. Two occupants exited the van-- one was killed, the other injured. Despite claims by the police that the van was pulled over for connections to burglaries, the folder of "suspects" circulated by the cops exclusively consisted of former Panthers, not burglary suspects. Abdul and his co-defendant, Bashir Hameed were arrested and tried three times. The first trial ended in a hung jury. The second trial was declared a mistrial by the judge immediately after the jury rendered a decision that acquitted Bashir on the murder charge. At a third trial, the state finally got its way-- Abdul was convicted of murder and sentenced to 33 years to life.

Jalil Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom) #77-A-4283

Attica Correctional Facility

Post Office Box 149

Attica, New York 14011-0149

Jalil became affiliated with the Black Panther Party at age 18. Less than 2 months before his 20th birthday he was captured with Albert Nuh Washington in a mid-night shootout with San Francisco police. He was subsequently charged with a host of revolutionary activities including the assassination of two police in New York City. It is for this that he is currently serving a 25 years to life sentence in New York State. His case is known as the New York 3 case as his co-defendants include Nuh and Herman Bell. He was also implicated in the San Francisco 8 case, and pled guilty to a lesser offense.

More info: www.freejalil.com

**Sekou Odinga #09-A-3775**

Shawangunk Correctional Facility

Box 700

Wallkill, New York 12589

Sekou was forced into hiding in 1969 when he and twenty other Black Panther Party members were wrongly charged with criminal conspiracy in the NY Panther 21 case. Several months later, while still underground, he traveled to Algeria to establish an international chapter of the Black Panther Party. Later, Sekou became an activist in the New Afrikan Independence Movement and a member of the Black Liberation Army. On October 23, 1981, Sekou and Mtyari Shabaka Sundiata were ambushed by the NYC police and FBI agents. The police murdered Mtyari. Sekou was eventually captured, tortured, and eventually charged with the liberation of Assata Shakur and the expropriation of money from an armored car. Sekou was convicted of two federal charges under the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) Act and was sentenced to forty years imprisonment and a \$50,000 fine. He was also convicted of six state counts of attempted murder stemming from the defense of himself and Mtyari during the police attack in 1981. For this he was sentenced to concurrent life sentences.

More info: www.sekouodinga.com

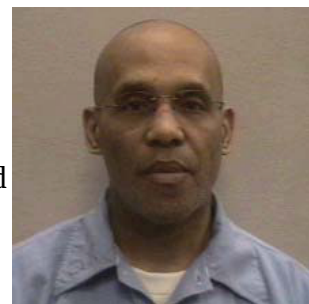
**Ronald Reed #2195311**

Minnesota Correctional Facility-Oak Park Heights

5329 Osgood Avenue North

Stillwater, Minnesota 55082-1117

Ronald Reed, a former member of the Black United Front, was convicted of the 1970 shooting of a St. Paul police officer. Twenty-five years after the killing, Reed was arrested and convicted of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first degree-murder. He is serving Life in prison.



Reed is a former 60s civil rights activist. In 1969, Reed was also among the students at St. Paul Central High School who demanded black history courses and organized actions against racist teachers. He was also instrumental in helping to integrate college campuses in Minnesota. During this period, Reed began to look toward revolutionary theory and began to engage in political street theater with other young black revolutionaries in the city of St. Paul.

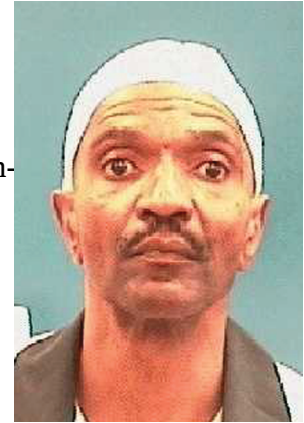
More info: www.abcf.net/prisoners/reed.htm

Kamau Sadiki (Freddie Hilton) #0001150688

Augusta State Medical Prison
3001 Gordon Highway
Grovetown, Georgia 30813

Kamau Sadiki is a former member of the Black Panther Party and was convicted of a 30-year old murder case of a Fulton County Police Officer found shot to death in his car outside a service station.

More info: www.freekamau.org



Dr. Mutulu Shakur #83205-012

USP Victorville
Post Office Box 5300
Adelanto, California 92301

In 1987 Dr. Shakur was sentenced to 60 years imprisonment for his role in the Black Liberation Movement. In March 1982, Dr. Shakur and 10 others were indicted by a federal grand jury under a set of U.S. conspiracy laws called Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) laws. These conspiracy laws were ostensibly developed to aid the government in its prosecution of organized crime figures; however, they have been used with varying degrees of success against revolutionary organizations. Dr. Shakur was charged with conspiracy and participation in the Black Liberation Army, a group that carried out actual and attempted expropriations from several banks. Eight incidents were alleged to have occurred between December 1976 to October 1981. In addition, he was charged with participation in the 1979 prison escape of Assata Shakur, who is now in exile in Cuba.



After five years underground, Dr. Shakur was arrested on February 12, 1986.

While he was on the street, Dr. Shakur challenged the use of methadone as a tool of recovery for addicts. He believed in natural remedies instead and, based on those beliefs, founded the Black Acupuncture Advisory Association of North America. Many people credit Shakur with saving their lives. Dr. Shakur has worked to free political prisoners and to expose government abuses against political organizers. While in prison, he has struggled to create peace between rival gangs.

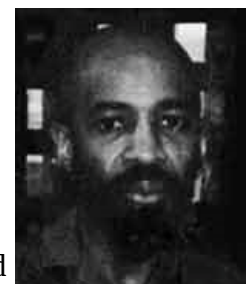
More info: www.mutulushakur.com

Russell Maroon Shoats #AF3855

SCI Greene
175 Progress Drive
Waynesburg, Pennsylvania 15370

A dedicated community activist and founding member of the Philadelphia-based organization Black Unity Council, which eventually merged with the Black Panther Party (1969). In 1970, along with 5 others, Maroon was accused of attacking a police station, which resulted in an officer being killed. This attack was said to have been carried out in response to the rampant police brutality in the Black community. For 18 months Maroon functioned underground as a soldier in the Black Liberation Army. In 1972 he was captured. Twice he escaped -- once in 1977 and again 1980, but both times he was recaptured and today he is held in a control unit in Pennsylvania where he is serving multiple life sentences.

More info: www.myspace.com/freerussellshoatz



Gary Tyler #84156

Louisiana State Penitentiary
ASH-4

Angola, Louisiana 70712

On 7 October 1974 students at Destrehan High School, St Charles Parish, Louisiana, were sent home earlier than usual due to racial disturbances during the day. As the buses carrying black students back to their homes were leaving the school they were attacked by a group of 100 to 200 white people throwing stones and bottles at the buses. Shots were allegedly fired from inside the bus and one person was killed. Gary Tyler, after complaining about police harassment of other Black students, was put inside a police car and eventually arrested. Police thoroughly searched the bus and found no weapon. It was not until days later that cops allegedly found a .45 caliber pistol in the seat where Tyler was sitting. This was enough evidence to convict Tyler.

More info: freegarytyler.com

**ANGOLA 3**

The Angola 3 are three black liberationists that while inside prison, contact with members of the Black Panthers led to the creation of a prison chapter of the Black Panther Party in 1971. The men then organized prisoners to build a movement within the walls to desegregate the prison, to end systematic rape and violence, for better living conditions, and worked as jailhouse lawyers helping prisoners file legal papers. They organized multiple strikes and sit-ins for better conditions. Woodfox and Wallace were convicted of the 1972 stabbing murder of 23-year-old prison guard Brent Miller. The third member of the Angola 3, Robert King Wilkerson, has been released.

More info: www.angola3.org

Herman Wallace #76759

Elayn Hunt Correctional Center
Post Office Box 174
Saint Gabriel, Louisiana 70776-0174

**Shaka Cinque (Albert Woodfox) #72148**

David Wade Correctional Center - N1A
670 Bell Hill Road
Homer, Louisiana 71040

**THE MOVE 9**

MOVE is a radical ecological movement that has been attacked by the Philadelphia Police since its inception. Nine members were convicted and sent to prison for life following a 1978 siege at their house in which one cop was killed by another cop. One of those nine, Merle Africa, died in prison after being denied medical treatment.

More info: www.onamove.com

Charles Sims Africa #AM4975

SCI Retreat
660 State Route 11
Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania 18621



Debbie Sims Africa #OO6307

SCI Cambridge Springs
451 Fullerton Avenue
Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania 16403



Delbert Orr Africa #AM4985

SCI Dallas
Follies Road, Drawer K
Dallas, Pennsylvania 18612-0286



Edward Goodman Africa #AM4974

SCI Mahoney
301 Morea Road
Frackville, Pennsylvania 17932



Janet Holloway Africa #OO6308

SCI Cambridge Springs
451 Fullerton Avenue
Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania 16403



Janine Phillips Africa #OO6309

SCI Cambridge Springs
451 Fullerton Avenue
Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania 16403



Michael Davis Africa #AM4973

SCI Graterford
Post Office Box 244
Graterford, Pennsylvania 19426-0244



William Phillips Africa #AM4984

SCI Dallas
Follies Road, Drawer K
Dallas, Pennsylvania 18612-0286

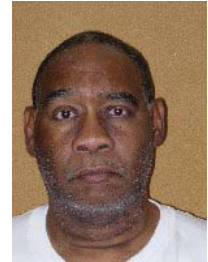


NEBRASKA 2

The Nebraska 2 were charged and convicted of the murder of Omaha Police Officer Larry Minard. Minard died when a suitcase containing dynamite exploded in a North Omaha home on August 17, 1970. Officer John Tess was also injured in the explosion. Poindexter and Rice were members of the Black Panther Party, and their case was, and continues to be, controversial. The Omaha Police withheld exculpatory evidence at trial. The two men had been targeted by the FBI's COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program), which operated against and infiltrated anti-war and Civil Rights groups, including the Omaha Black Panthers. The US section of Amnesty International recognizes Rice and Poindexter as political prisoners. The state's parole board has recommended the men for release, but political leaders have not acted on these recommendations.
More info: www.n2pp.info

Ed Poindexter #27767

Nebraska State Penitentiary
Post Office Box 2500
Lincoln, Nebraska 68542



Mondo Eyan We Langa (David Rice) # 27768

Nebraska State Penitentiary
Post Office Box 2500
Lincoln, Nebraska 68542-2500



UNITED FREEDOM FRONT

Jaan Laaman #10372-016

USP Tuscon
Post Office Box 24550
Tuscon, Arizona 85734

Jaan was raised in Roxbury, Massachusetts and Buffalo, New York. His family emigrated to the United States from Estonia when he was a child. He is currently serving a 53 year prison sentence for his role in the bombings of United States government buildings while a member of the United Freedom Front, an American leftist group which robbed banks, bombed buildings, and attacked law enforcement officers in the 1980s. In the 1960s Laaman worked with Students for a Democratic Society, a community organization that advocated against the Vietnam War and racism. He facilitated youth development in the Black Panther Party and the Puerto Rican Young Lords street gang. In 1972 he was arrested and charged with bombing a Richard Nixon reelection headquarters building and a police station in New Hampshire and was sentenced to 20 years. However, he was released in 1978. In 1979 he and Kazi Toure helped to organize the Amandla Festival of Unity to support an end to apartheid in Southern Africa, which featured musician Bob Marley. He was eventually caught with several other members of the United Freedom Front, referred to as the Ohio 7, including leader Tom Manning in 1984. While originally charged with seditious conspiracy, Laaman was found guilty of five bombings, one attempted bombing, and criminal conspiracy, and sentenced to 53 years in prison.
More info: freejaan.blogspot.com



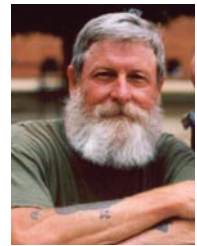
Thomas Manning #10373-016

FMC Butner

Post Office Box 1600

Butner, North Carolina 27509

Born to a Boston postal clerk, Thomas "Tom" William Manning is known for his involvement in the killing of a police officer during a routine traffic stop, and for his involvement with the United Freedom Front (UFF) who bombed a series of US military and commercial institutes in the 1970s and early 1980s. As a youth, he shined shoes and raised pigeons, before finding work as a stockboy. He joined the US Military in 1963, and the following year was stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba before being transferred off to spend the following year in the Vietnam War. Some time shortly after 1965, he was sentenced by a Massachusetts state court to five years in prison for armed robbery and assault, serving the last ten months in Massachusetts Correctional Institution - Cedar Junction. He claims it was during these years that he became heavily politicized, through his interactions with other prisoners. After his release in 1971, he married Carol and together they produced three children, Jeremy, Tamara, and Jonathan. Together with his arrest for the bombings, Manning was also convicted for his role in killing New Jersey police officer Philip Lamonaco during a traffic stop on December 21 1981. The killings launched the largest manhunt in NJ police history and ended with the arrests of Ray Levasseur, Patricia Gross, Richard Williams, Jaan Laamnan, and Barbara Curzi on November 4th, 1984, and Manning and his wife Carol on April 24, 1985. All of them were associated with the United Freedom Front. Manning pled self-defense at his trial, while defense counsel showed that Lamonaco had emptied his .357 revolver at Manning and his associates. He was sentenced on February 19, 1987 to 58 years in federal prison. More information at <http://geocities.com/tom-manning>

**GREEN SCARE/EARTH LIBERATION/ANIMAL LIBERATION****Grant Barnes #137563**

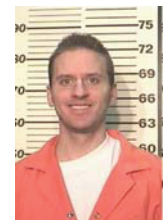
Arrowhead Correctional Facility

Post Office Box 300

Cañon City, Colorado 81215-3000

Grant Barnes pled guilty and was sentenced to 12 years in prison for setting several SUVs on fire in the Denver area.

More info: grantbarnes.wordpress.com

**Exile (Nathan Block) #36359-086**

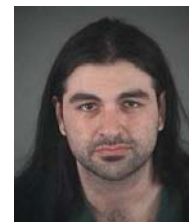
FCI Lompoc

3600 Guard Road

Lompoc, California 93436

Nathan Block pled guilty and was sentenced to seven years and eight months for involvement in two incidents of direct actions that occurred in Oregon in 2001.

More info: solidaritywithsadieandexile@gmail.com

**Walter Edmund Bond #2011-03339**

Davis County Jail

Post Office Box 130

Farmington, Utah 84025-0130

Walter Bond is an imprisoned Animal Liberation Front activist who in the Summer of 2010 was arrested for the "ALF Lonewolf" arsons of the Sheepskin Factory in Denver, Colorado, the Tandy Leather Factory in Salt Lake City, Utah and the Tiburon Restaurant in Sandy, Utah which sold Foie Gras. He received a total of 12 years and 4 months for his actions from the court on October 13th, 2011.

More info: supportwalter.org



Tim DeChristopher #16156-081

FCI Herlong

Post Office Box 800

Herlong, California 96113

Tim was sentenced to 2 years in federal prison, 3 years of supervised probation and a \$10,000 fine for disrupting an auction of oil and gas leases near Arches and Canyonlands National Parks in Utah. The auction was former President Bush's parting gift to his good friends in industry, and Tim intended to disrupt the event and get himself arrested. But as he walked in the door, an attendant asked Tim if he was there to bid. "Why yes, yes I am," he answered, and was given a paddle. Tim then proceeded to win several lots in a row - until the auctioneer realized something was wrong, suspended the proceedings, and had Tim arrested. More info: bidder70.org

**Eric McDavid #16209-097**

FCI Terminal Island

Post Office Box 3007

San Pedro, California 90731

Eric was arrested (along with Zachary Jenson and Lauren Weiner) on January 13, 2006, as part of the government's ongoing Green Scare campaign. All three were charged with "Conspiracy to damage and destroy property by fire and an explosive." His arrest was the direct result of a government informant – known only as "Anna" - who spent a year and a half drawing him in and working with the FBI to fabricate a crime and implicate Eric in it. Anna was paid over \$65,000 for her work with the FBI. Eric was imprisoned for what amounts to thought-crime – no actions were ever carried out. One reason for his conviction is that both Zach and Lauren turned snitch.

More info: www.supporteric.org**Daniel McGowan #63794-053**

FCI Terre Haute - CMU

Post Office Box 33

Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

Daniel is an American environmental and social justice activist who was arrested and charged in federal court on multiple counts of arson and conspiracy, relating to the arson of Superior Lumber company in Glendale, Oregon on January 2, 2001 and Jefferson Poplar Farms in Clatskanie, Oregon on May 21, 2001 claimed by the Earth Liberation Front (ELF). McGowan was facing a minimum of life in prison if convicted when he accepted a non-cooperation plea agreement, pleading guilty on November 9, 2006. His arrest is part of what the US government has dubbed Operation Backfire. More info: www.supportdaniel.org

**Steve Murphy #39013-177**

FCI Beaumont Medium

Post Office Box 26040

Beaumont, Texas 77720

Steve Murphy is a vegan political prisoner who pleaded guilty to a 2006 E.L.F. Action in Pasadena, California. The action involved decommissioning a tractor and placing an incendiary device in a housing development construction site in the name of the Earth Liberation Front.

<http://supportsteve.org>

Sadie (Joyanna Zacher) #36360-086

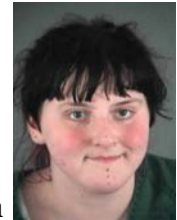
FCI Dublin

5701 8th Street - Camp Parks - Unit F

Dublin, California 94568

Joyanna Zacher pled guilty and was sentenced to seven years and eight months for involvement in two incidents of direct actions that occurred in Oregon in 2001, both claimed by the Earth Liberation Front. Sadie is one of only four targets of Operation Backfire who maintained her principles, refusing to cooperate with the federal government.

More info: solidaritywithsadieandexile@gmail.com

**Justin Solondz #98291-011**

FDC SeaTac

Post Office Box 13900

Seattle, Washington 98198

An Operation Backfire defendant, federal authorities allege Solondz made incendiary devices that destroyed a horticulture center at the University of Washington in Seattle in May 2001. Prosecutors also accuse him, as a member of the Earth Liberation Front, of burning down buildings and vehicles in Oregon that same day, and will attempt to link him to a later arson attack in California. As of December 2011, Justin is pre-trial.

**Michael Sykes #696693**

Carson City Correctional Facility

10274 Boyer Road

Post Office Box 5000

Carson City, Michigan 48811

Michael Sykes is an 18-year-old anarchist from Lambertville, Michigan currently serving a prison sentence for eco-related acts of property destruction, committed while he was a minor. He was convicted of setting fire to two homes under construction, and accused of attempting to cut down a utility pole, burning down other homes under construction, and setting fire to a Kroger's semi-trailer. He was tried as an adult and is currently serving a 4-10 year prison sentence with somewhere between \$200,000 and \$400,000 in restitution. While Michael was 17 at the time of the alleged crimes, he was tried as an adult. His motivation was to interfere with sprawl, because he "was tired of seeing all the forests being destroyed."

**PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE****Avelino Gonzalez Claudio #09873-000**

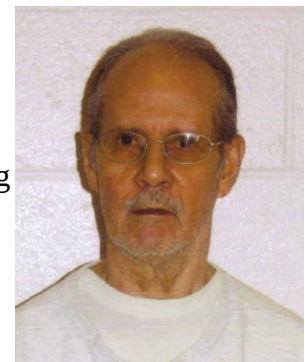
FCI Ashland

Post Office Box 6001

Ashland, Kentucky 41105

In August of 1985, Avelino Gonzalez Claudio was accused of participating in the planning and authorization of an operation to secure \$7,117,000 from a Wells Fargo armored truck in Hartford, Connecticut on September 12, 1983, along with other Puerto Ricans and two North Americans. The operation was carried out by a clandestine organization fighting for the independence of Puerto Rico, the PRTP Macheteros. Avelino was not arrested at the time. However, more than 20 years later, he was arrested in Manatí, Puerto Rico, on February 7, 2008.

More info: www.prolibertadweb.com

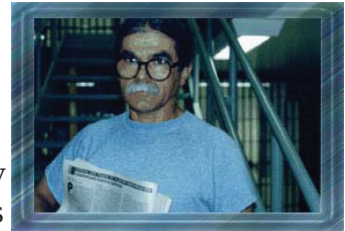


Oscar López Rivera #87651-024

FCI Terre Haute

Post Office Box 33

Terre Haute, Indiana 47808



Oscar López-Rivera was born in San Sebastian, Puerto Rico on January 6, 1943. At the age of 12, he moved to Chicago with his family. He was a well-respected community activist and a prominent independence leader for many years prior to his arrest. Oscar was one of the founders of the Rafael Cancel Miranda High School, now known as the Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School and the Juan Antonio Corretjer Puerto Rican Cultural Center. He was a community organizer for the Northwest Community Organization (NCO), ASSPA, ASPIRA and the 1st Congregational Church of Chicago. He helped to found FREE, (a half-way house for convicted drug addicts) and ALAS (an educational program for Latino prisoners at Stateville Prison in Illinois).

He was active in various community struggles, mainly in the area of health care, employment and police brutality. He also participated in the development of the Committee to Free the Five Puerto Rican Nationalists. In 1975, he was forced underground, along with other comrades. He was captured on May 29, 1981, after 5 years of being persecuted by the FBI as one of the most feared fugitives from US "justice."

More info: www.boricuahumanrights.org

Kojo Bomani Sababu (Grailing Brown) #39384-066

USP Hazelton

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Post Office Box 2000

Bruceton Mills, West Virginia 26525

One of four members of the Puerto Rican independence group FALN convicted of conspiracy in a failed 1986 attempt to free the Oscar Lopez Rivera from prison.

CUBAN 5

The Cuban Five are five Cuban men who are in U.S. prison, serving four life sentences and 75 years collectively, after being wrongly convicted in U.S. federal court in Miami, on June 8, 2001. The Five were falsely accused by the U.S. government of committing espionage conspiracy against the United States, and other related charges. But the Five pointed out vigorously in their defense that they were involved in monitoring the actions of Miami-based terrorist groups, in order to prevent terrorist attacks on their country of Cuba. The Five's actions were never directed at the U.S. government. They never harmed anyone nor ever possessed nor used any weapons while in the United States.

For more than 40 years, anti-Cuba terrorist organizations based in Miami have engaged in countless terrorist activities against Cuba, and against anyone who advocates a normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuba. More than 3,000 Cubans have died as a result of these terrorists' attacks. Terrorist Miami groups like Comandos F4 and Brothers to the Rescue operate with complete impunity from within the United States to attack Cuba—with the knowledge and support of the FBI and CIA. Therefore, Cuba made the careful and necessary decision to send the Five Cubans to Miami to monitor the terrorists. The Cuban Five infiltrated the terrorist organizations in Miami to inform Cuba of imminent attacks.

More info: www.freethefive.org

Fernando Gonzalez (Rubén Campa) #58733-004

FCI Terre Haute

Post Office Box 33

Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

(NOTE: the envelope should be addressed to "Rubén Campa," but address the letter inside to Fernando.)



Antonio Guerrero #58741-004

FCI Florence

Post Office Box 6000

Florence, Colorado 81226



Gerardo Hernandez #58739-004

USP Victorville

Post Office Box 5500

Adelanto, California 92301



Ramón Labañino (Luís Medina) #58734-004

FCI Jesup

2680 301 South

Jesup, Georgia 31599

(NOTE: the envelope should be addressed to "Luís Medina," but address the letter inside to Ramón.)



OTHER NATIONAL LIBERATION

David Gilbert #83-A-6158

Auburn Correctional Facility

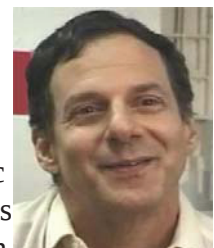
Post Office Box 618

Auburn, New York 13021

Gilbert was a founding member of Columbia University Students for a Democratic Society and member of The Weather Underground Organization. After eleven years underground, he was arrested in 1981, along with members of the Black Liberation

Army and other radicals, after they killed two police officers and a security guard in the course of an armored car robbery. Gilbert was tried and convicted for his part in their deaths and is now serving a 75 years-to-life sentence for his role in the robbery.

More info: www.prisonactivist.org/archive/pps+pows/davidgilbert/index.html



Alvaro Luna Hernandez #255735

Hughes Unit

Route 2, Box 4400

Gatesville, Texas 76597

A community organizer from Texas. Police informants were used to monitor Alvaro's organizing activities in the barrio. They were told Alvaro was "typing legal papers," "had many books" and was working on police brutality cases in Alpine.



The police knew of Alvaro's history of community-based organizing and his legal skills. Alvaro was recognized nationally and internationally as the national coordinator of the Ricardo Aldape Guerra Defense Committee, which led the struggle to free Mexican national Aldape Guerra from Texas' death row after being framed by Houston police for allegedly killing a cop. Alvaro's human rights work was recognized in Italy, France, Spain, Switzerland, Mexico and other countries. He was sentenced in Odessa, Texas on June 2-9, 1997 to 50 years in prison for defending himself by disarming a police officer drawing a weapon on him. The trial evidence clearly showed Alvaro was the victim of "witchhunts" and a police-orchestrated conspiracy to frame or eliminate him. More info: www.freealvaro.org

Yogi Pinell (Hugo Pinell) #A88401

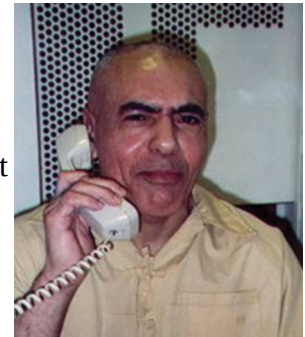
Pelican Bay State Prison

Post Office Box 7500

Crescent City, California 95531

While Pinell was imprisoned in San Quentin State Prison he made contact with revolutionary prisoners such as George Jackson, one of the Soledad Brothers and W.L. Nolen. On August 21, 1971, there was a prisoner uprising in Pinell's housing unit at San Quentin, led by George Jackson. On August 21, 1971, Jackson used a pistol to take over his tier in the Adjustment Center. At the end of the roughly 30 minute rebellion, guards had killed George Jackson, and two other prisoners and three guards were dead. Of the remaining prisoners in the unit, six of them, including Pinell, were put on trial for murder and conspiracy. They were known as The San Quentin Six. Three of them were acquitted of all charges, and three were found guilty of various charges. Pinell was convicted of assault on a guard. Although Pinell was convicted of assault, and another of the San Quentin Six had a murder conviction, only Pinell remains.

More info: hugopinell.org

**Tsutomu Shirosaki #20924-016**

FCI Terre Haute

Post Office Box 33

Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

Tsutomu Shirosaki is a Japanese national imprisoned as a political prisoner in the United States. He has been accused of being a member of Japanese Red Army and participating in several attacks, including a mortar attack against a U.S. embassy. He is currently serving 30-years in a U.S Federal prison. during his college years, where Tsutomu began participating in the student movement, embracing a more left-wing philosophy. By the 1970s, Shirosaki participated in various underground activities, including a string of bank and post office robberies. These actions were fundraising activities for Japanese radical groups. But in 1971, Shirosaki was arrested in Tokyo and sentenced to ten years in prison for an attack on a Bank of Yokohama branch office. While acknowledging his radical philosophy and actions, Shirosaki maintains the assertion that he was never a member of the Japanese Red Army.



Lynne Stewart #53504-054

FMC Carswell

Post Office Box 27137

Fort Worth, Texas 76127

Veteran New York criminal defense attorney Lynne Stewart was sentenced to 28 months in prison in the Southern District of New York for “providing material support to the Gama’ a Islamiya”, which is on the Bush administration’s list of terrorist organizations. Stewart is counsel for Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, the “blind Sheik.” In 1995, Rahman was convicted of conspiracy to bomb New York City landmarks.

More info: lynnestewart.org**GI/WAR RESISTERS****Rafil A. Dhafir #11921-052**

FCI Terre Haute - CMU

Post Office Box 33

Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

Dr. Rafil A. Dhafir is an Iraqi-born American physician, who was sentenced on October 28, 2005, to 22 years in prison for violating the Iraqi sanctions by sending money to Iraq through his charity front Help the Needy, and for fraud, money laundering, tax evasion, and a variety of other nonviolent crimes. Five other people, including his wife, had already pleaded guilty to charges in connection with the case. Dr. Dhafir is believed to be the only U.S. citizen currently imprisoned for violating the sanctions on Iraq.

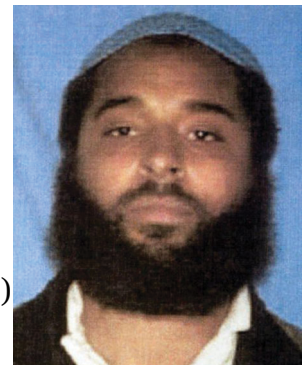
More info: www.dhafirtrial.net**Patrice Lumumba Ford #96639-011**

USP Florence - High

Post Office Box 7000

Florence, Colorado 81226

Accused of membership in a terrorist group dubbed the Portland Seven, members of which attempted to travel to Afghanistan shortly after 9/11 in order to aid the Taliban. He refused to cooperate with the government and was sentenced to eighteen years in prison (avoiding a possible life sentence) after pleading guilty to seditious conspiracy and levying war against American and allied forces.

More info: <http://j.mp/patricelumumbaford>**Bradley Manning**

3247 Elrod Avenue

Quantico, Virginia 22134

On April 4, 2010, whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks published a classified video of a United States Apache helicopter firing on civilians in New Baghdad in 2007. In late July 2010, the U.S. Military alleged that Manning was the chief suspect in the “Afghan Diaries” leak of U.S. Military combat and incident reports from the occupation of Afghanistan. The Afghan Diaries is the largest collection of leaked intelligence records in U.S. history, and details what Wikileaks and others have described as “countless war crimes” by U.S. and NATO forces. Bradley is pret-trial, facing 30 years in prison.

More info: bradleymanning.org

NEW JERSEY 4

On August 18, 2006, seven young African American lesbian women from Newark, New Jersey came to Manhattan's West Village for a night out. Although they were all familiar with harassment about their sexual orientation, none of them anticipated their night out would end as a nightmare. A male bystander harassed and assaulted the young women, making sexist and homophobic comments to them as well as lewd advances and telling one of the women that he would "fuck her straight." When the women defended themselves, a physical altercation ensued. It ended with all the young women being arrested. After a hellish year-long trip through the legal system, three women (Chenese Loyal, Khymesha Coates, Lania Daniels) took plea bargains and the other four were convicted of crimes and given shocking prison sentences in April 2007. Terrain Dandridge, 20, was sentenced to three and a half years behind bars; Venice Brown, 19, five years; Renata Hill, 25, eight years; and Patreese Johnson, who was only 19, was sentenced to an unbelievable 11 years.

Terrain Dandridge, Venice Brown, and Renata Hill have since been released.
More info: freenj4.wordpress.com

Patreese Johnson #07-G-0635

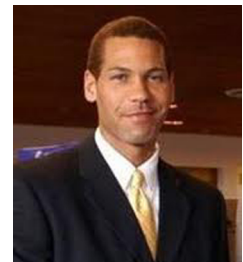
Taconic Correctional Facility
250 Harris Road
Bedford Hills, New York 10507

ANTI-POLICE

Christopher John Monfort #209040021

500 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104

Monfort is accused of waging a one-man war against the Seattle police in the fall of 2009, including the firebombing of police cars and the murder of a cop. Monfort is facing the death penalty in Washington state for his alleged actions. Since the start of court proceedings, Monfort has been very outspoken about the role of police and has consistently called on other people in the United States to confront police terror in their communities and use armed tactics to do so if necessary.



VIRGIN ISLAND 5

The "Virgin Island Five" are group of activists accused of murdering eight people in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The murders took place during a turbulent period of rebellion on the Islands. During the 1970's, as with much of the world, a movement to resist colonial rule began to grow in the U.S. occupied Virgin Islands. From 1971 to 1973, there was a small scale Mau Mau rebellion taking place on the islands. This activity was down- played by the media, for fear it would damage the tourist industry, which the island's survival depends on.

Then on September 6th, 1972, eight American tourists were gunned down at the Rockefeller-owned golf course on the island of St.Croix. Quickly the colonial authorities picked up over one hundred blacks for interrogations, and the U.S. colonial troops carried out a series of repressive acts of violence against the black community. The F.B.I. and the United States Army led a 300-man invasion force into the islands and used strong armed tactics to conduct house to house searches of the low income areas. The island was put under virtual martial law, and eventually five men, Ismael Labeet (Ishmail Ali), Warren Ballentine (Abdul Aziz), Meral (Malik) Smith, Raphael (Kwesi) Joseph, and Beaumont Gereau (Hanif Shabazz Bey) who were apprehended and then charged with the attack. All the men were known supporters of the Virgin Island independence movement.

The five were charged after being subjected to vicious torture, in order to extract confessions. They were beaten, hung from their feet and necks from trees, subject to electric shocks with “cattle prods,” had plastic bags tied over their heads and had water forced up their noses by the “defenders of the law.”

According to one report, Labeet was given a pocket knife by a guard and was told to run.

Labeet knew that if he took one step he would be shot in his tracks. The guards were trying to find any justification to kill Labeet and his fellow Virgin Island Five political prisoners. The judge (Warren Young) overlooking the case prior to being placed on the federal bench worked as Rockefeller’s private attorney and even handled legal matters for the Fountain Valley Golf Course.

Eventually, the five went to trial in what became known as the “Fountain Valley” murder trial. This was an obvious Kangaroo Court and a mockery of any sense of a fair trial. On August 13, 1973, each of the five men were convicted and sentenced to eight (8) consecutive life terms.

Abdul Aziz (Warren Ballentine) #1415430

Wallens Ridge State Prison

272 Dogwood Drive

Post Office Box 759

Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Hanif Shabazz Bey (Beaumont Gereau) #295933

RR 1 Box 9955

Kingshill, St Croix, Virgin Islands 00850

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Malik Smith (Meral Smith)

RR 1 Box 9955

Kingshill, St Croix, Virgin Islands 00850

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

GET INVOLVED

If you're **in the NYC area**, come to one of our events! We host political prisoner letter-writing dinners every other Tuesday in Brooklyn (upcoming events are generally posted on the home-page or you can email us to join our announcement list). We also host or co-host several other special events throughout the year, including the annual Running Down the Walls. Contact us if you'd like to be added to our announcement list for upcoming events and important news, or follow us on twitter.

Whether or not you live in the area, we encourage you to become an ABCF Warchest contributor. One can do so via mail or paypal (make your payment to timabcf[at]aol[dot]com) at a level of \$5, \$10, or \$20 per month or on an ad hoc basis. Contact us for more information about this program and how to contribute.

For **those outside of NYC**, we also are available to answer questions and generally support people in starting a prisoner support organization or ABC chapter in your area.

WRITE A LETTER

Writing a letter to a political prisoner or prisoner of war is a concrete way to support those imprisoned for their political struggles.

A letter is a simple way to brighten someone's day in prison by creating human interaction and communication--something prisons attempt to destroy. Beyond that, writing keeps prisoners connected to the communities and movements of which they are a part, allowing them to provide insights and stay up to date.

Writing to prisoners is not charity, as we on the outside have as much to gain from these relationships as the prisoners. Knowing the importance of letter writing is crucial. Prisons are very lonely, isolating, and disconnected places. Any sort of bridge from the outside world is greatly appreciated.

With that in mind, avoid feeling intimidated, especially about writing to someone you do not know. And if possible try and be a consistent pen pal.

WHAT TO WRITE

For many, the first line of the first letter is difficult to write--there is uncertainty and intimidation that come with it. Never fret, it's just a letter.

For the first letter, it's best to offer an introduction, how you heard about the prisoner, a little about yourself. Tell stories, write about anything you are passionate about--movement work and community work are great topics until you have a sense of the prisoner's interests outside of political organizing.

And what we hear from prisoners time and time again is to include detail. Prison is so total that the details of life on the outside become distant memories. Smells, textures, sounds of the street all get grayed out behind bars. That's not to say that you should pen a stream-of-consciousness novel.

For things you should and should not remember when writing to folks, read GUIDELINES.

GUIDELINES

You cannot enclose glitter or write with glittery gel pens or puff paint pens. Some prisons do not allow cards or letters that include permanent marker, crayon, or colored pencils and it is best to check with the prisoner beforehand. That said, it is usually best to write in standard pencil or non-gel pen in blue or black ink.

You cannot include articles or anything else torn out of a newspaper or magazine. However, you can print that same article from the internet or photocopy it and write your letter on the other side.

You cannot include polaroid pictures (though these days, that's not much of an issue), but you can include regular photographs. Some prisoners are limited to the number of photos they can have at any given time, so again, check with the prisoner before sending a stack of photos.

If mailing more than a letter, clearly write the contents of the envelope/package. Label it "CONTENTS" and include a full list.

A couple of technical details-- make sure you include your return address inside the letter as well as on the envelope. It's common for prisoners to receive letters without the envelope. Make sure to paginate-- number each page, such as 1 of 3, 2 of 3, et cetera. This insures that if pages of your letter don't make it to the prisoner, they will know it.

Be careful about making promises and only commit to what you are certain you can do. This should go without saying, but it's not a good idea to make commitments to someone you don't have a relationship with. If you can't maintain a correspondence, let them know up front. Conversely, if you want to maintain an ongoing correspondence, let them know that as well.

If you are writing to someone who is pre-trial, don't ask questions about their case. Discussing what a prisoner is alleged to have done can easily come back to haunt them during their trial or negotiations leading up to it.

Don't valorize the person you are writing. Keep in mind that these are folks coming from the same movements and communities that you are. They aren't looking for adoration, but rather to maintain correspondence.

Finally, do not write anything you wouldn't want Fox News, a cop, or a judge to see. Assume that intelligence and law enforcement agencies are reading your letter. On a related note, this advice goes for any snail mail, e-mail, texting, messaging, or talking that takes place in known activist spaces or homes. This is not legal advice, just basic movement survival common sense (to review, read *STAYING SAFE*).

STAYING SAFE

You never have to, and it is never a good idea to talk to police, FBI, ICE, or any other law enforcement agent or investigator. Other than providing your name and address to a police officer who is investigating a crime, you never have to talk. You will not outsmart them by talking or sound less suspicious by talking or make things easier for yourself by talking. Anything you say will be used against you and others. If they catch you in a lie or inconsistency they can charge you with a separate crime.

Say: I have nothing to say to you OR I need a lawyer present to continue this conversation. If they come to your home, workplace, or school, ask them for a card and tell them your attorney will be in contact with them.

The FBI may threaten you with a grand-jury subpoena for not talking. It doesn't matter because they were probably going to subpoena you anyway and you weren't going to talk anyway. If you receive a grand jury subpoena you should contact a lawyer immediately and let others in your community know. People can be held for up to six months for refusing to talk to grand juries. Even so, for our own survival, it is imperative that we take that risk and do not participate in grand juries as they are used to indict political prisoners and prisoners of war.

In the federal legal system, the grand jury is used to decide whether someone should be charged ("indicted") for a serious crime. The grand jury hears evidence presented by the prosecutor: the U.S. Attorney. The grand jury uses subpoenas to gather this evidence. It can subpoena documents, physical evidence, and witnesses to testify. The "special" federal grand jury, created in 1970, can be used to investigate "possible" organized criminal activity rather than a specific crime.

Currently there is more than one active grand jury in new york city. There are also more than likely informants and agent provocateurs infiltrating the anarchist community here.

It is imperative that we continue our work as anarchists including the support of political prisoners and prisoners of war towards the abolition of the state, of capitalism, and of all oppression. It is also imperative that we do so in a way that is smart, strategic, and sustainable.

NYC Anarchist Black Cross

NYC Anarchist Black Cross is a collective focused on supporting US-held political prisoners and prisoners of war and opposing state repression against revolutionary social justice movements. We are a Support Group of of the continental Anarchist Black Cross Federation.

NYC ABC

Post Office Box 110034
Brooklyn, New York 11211

nycabc[at]riseup[dot]net
nycabc.wordpress.com
facebook.com/nycabc
twitter.com/nycabc



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